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January 22, 2010

**Via facsimile only (517) 373-9119**

Jase Bolger, State Representative  
63<sup>rd</sup> District  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

**RE: January 26, 2010 House Intergovernmental and Regional Affairs Committee  
consideration of House Bill 5573**

Dear Representative Bolger:

I understand the House Intergovernmental and Regional Affairs Committee will be considering this bill on January 26. I am corresponding with you to offer my strong support for this bill and my hope it will soon be enacted into law.

Throughout my 30 years of law practice, focusing almost exclusively on the representation of various townships throughout the state, I have all too frequently encountered circumstances in the law where townships are treated differently than cities and villages. *MCL 247.64* in its current form is one such statute, as it offers any village or city an opportunity to enact an ordinance for the purpose of controlling and eradicating noxious weeds without regard to population, but only provides the same opportunity to a township with a population of more than 5,000 people. One may perhaps debate whether such a population threshold was reasonable when the law was originally enacted in 1941, but there should be no question it presently serves no valid purpose when one considers the present population of many townships exceeds the population of numerous villages, and even some cities.

The many townships throughout the state with a present population under 5,000 would certainly appreciate having the same legal authority to control noxious weeds as villages, cities, and larger townships already have. Frankly, I cannot think of any reason why the lesser-populated townships should not have this same opportunity, without a population prerequisite.

Thank you for your continuing efforts to address this inequitable anachronism in the current law, to the benefit of numerous townships throughout the state. Please

contact me if I can provide any further assistance in support of the prompt enactment of this legislation into law.

Sincerely,

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Craig A. Rolfe

CAR/slb

cc (via U.S. mail): Don Ulsh, Schoolcraft Township Supervisor  
Virginia Mongreig, Schoolcraft Township Clerk  
G. Lawrence Merrill, Executive Director of Michigan Townships  
Association